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NEB Bellacoola NEB

§44 functional sickness. The child is washed in warm water. For ten days
[94] the mother must remain in the hut. Father and mother must not go
[95] near the room for a year (according to Boas' version, for ten days), else
[95] the unborn would take offense.

95 The child is soon given its first name. On this occasion the whole
[95] tribe is invited to a feast, the room is made public, and the guests receive
[95] small presents. The child retains this name until it becomes a member
[96] of the Ki'wasti, when it is given its Ki'wasti name. This ceremony takes
place after puberty has been reached. About this period the young man
gives his first potlatch and assumes the Ki'wasti name.

§1 When a girl reaches puberty she must stay in the shed which serves
as her bedroom, where she has a separate fireplace. She is not allowed
to descend to the main part of the house, and must not eat by the fire of
the family. For four days she must remain motionless in a sitting pos-
ture. She fasts during the daytime, but is allowed a little food and
drink at a very early hour in the morning. After this term she may
[96] leave her room, but only through a separate opening. She must not yet
[96] come to the main room. When leaving the house she wears a large hat,
which protects her face against the rays of the sun. It is believed that
if the sun should shine on her face her eyes would suffer. She may
visit brooks on the hills, but must not come near the river or sea for
[96] a whole year. She must not eat fresh salmon, else she would lose
[96] her senses, or her mouth would be transformed into a long beak. She
[96] must not show grief or eat much (see Fifth Report of Committee,
1887, p. 110).

§84 If a young man wishes to marry a girl he goes, accompanied by his
[93] friends, to the house of the girl's father and states his intention. His
friends carry food and presents, and if the father accepts the suit he
sends out a young man, who receives the food and presents and carries
them into the house. Sometimes the father does not accept the offer at
once. In such cases the young man may repeat the same ceremony until
[97] he is finally rejected or accepted. After the time of the marriage has
been agreed upon between the contracting parties, and the day preceding
the marriage has arrived, the young man invites all the people to a feast,
during which he states that he is to be married on the following day.
He asks a number of men, generally from twenty to thirty, and two
[98] women to assist him. On the following forenoon they assemble, and
§85 accompany the bridegroom to the girl's house. They sing loudly, and
four of the men dance. All of them have their faces painted red. Finally
they enter, and the bridegroom gives a large amount of property to the
girl's father. Then the girl leaves her parents and goes to the bride-
groom, bringing him also a large amount of property which has been
[98] given to her for this purpose by her parents and relatives. He in turn
gives her blankets and other apparel of the best quality, and sometimes
presents among her relatives. This is repeated often some time. All he
has given to his bride and her relatives is equal to his own income.
A rich girl will repay twice or three times the amount given by the man.
On the day of the marriage the bride's father may produce the property
given him by the bridegroom as soon as the pair have their first child.
[99] The children may belong to the father's or mother's gens, as the parents
may choose.

§86 In case of a separation the wife refunds the amount of purchase-
money. The children may stay with either parent, or part of them may